

VZCZCXRO8028
OO RUEHHM
DE RUEHHI #1367 3520245
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 170245Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY HANOI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8870
INFO RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH PRIORITY 5395
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0254

UNCLAS HANOI 001367

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ELA (IRWIN, LAWSON) AND EAP/MLS (BLACKSHAW)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [UNSC](#) [LE](#) [SY](#) [EUN](#) [VM](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FOR LEBANON

REF: STATE 129978

(SBU) In a December 16 discussion with the MFA's IO Division, Deputy PolCouns delivered reftel points, emphasizing strong U.S. support for the UN International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC), Commissioner Bellemare, and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL). Per reftel, DPolCouns urged Vietnam to support a two-month extension, until February 28, of UNIIC's mandate in order to ensure a smooth transition to the STL in The Hague. IO official Tran Quang Trung stated that the MFA was aware of the issue, but had not reached an official position. He promised to pass along the substance of the demarche to his superiors in the MFA and to Vietnam's UN Mission, noting -- as a personal observation -- that the request for a two-month extension sounded reasonable.

MICHALAK